



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director of Planning

November 15, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

39 November 15, 2011

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**CONFIRMATION OF HEARING EXAMINERS WITHIN
THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommendation to confirm the appointment of two Hearing Examiners within the Department of Regional Planning (Department). Hearing Examiners are employees of the Department who are appointed by the Director of Planning and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. Their duties are to conduct public hearings, receive public testimony and make recommendations to the Regional Planning Commission (Commission) on land divisions, land use permits and variances.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Confirm the appointments of Mark Child and Susan Tae as Hearing Examiners within the Department.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On August 12, 2008, the Board of Supervisors passed ordinances establishing a Hearing Examiner within the Department. The Hearing Examiner procedure increases opportunities for public participation earlier in the planning process and enables the Commission to make decisions in a more timely and efficient manner.

Section 22.08.080 of the County Code (Zoning Ordinance) requires that all appointments as Hearing Examiner be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

Mark Child has thirteen years of experience with the Department and has worked in the Current Planning and Advance Planning Divisions. He has an in-depth knowledge of the Department's case processing and environmental procedures and has worked closely with the Regional Planning Commission and the Department's Hearing Officers on a variety of land use entitlements. Mr. Child is highly qualified to serve as a Hearing Examiner.

Susan Tae has worked for the Department for eleven years and has been assigned in various sections within the Advance Planning and Current Planning Divisions. Most recently Ms. Tae managed the Land Division section and has gained a thorough understanding of the subdivision and zoning permit processes as well as the applicable codes and ordinances. Ms. Tae is highly qualified to serve as a Hearing Officer.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendation herein are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by increasing effectiveness of County processes and operations and delivering customer oriented services to unincorporated communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The appointment of the Hearing Examiners does not require additional funding; therefore, there is no impact on net County costs.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

County Code (Zoning Ordinance) Section 22.08.080 permits the Director of Planning to appoint Hearing Examiners, subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors, to perform the duties prescribed by Title 22 in conducting public hearings, receiving public testimony, and making recommendations to the Commission.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Your approval of this recommendation will enable the Department to devote and maintain an appropriate number of Hearing Examiners to enhance the quality of services provided to the public.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one adopted, stamped Board letter to the Department of Regional Planning.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/15/2011

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Bruckner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

RICHARD J. BRUCKNER

Director

RJB:SA:gmc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel